

For more details on these nature programs, call Mark Battista at 706-9690.

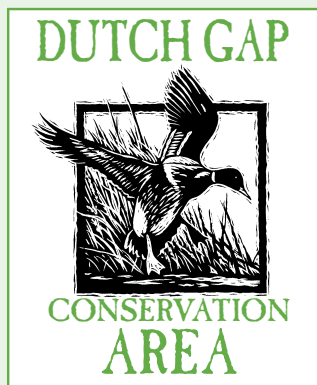
Dutch Gap Conservation Area

The 809-acre conservation area features bottomland forest, tidal and non-tidal marshes, a fresh water pond, meadows, a tidal lagoon, trails for hiking and biking and scenic areas for fishing.

Hours: 8 a.m. to 30 minutes after sunset.

Directions: From I-95 take exit 61 (Route 10, Hopewell) east to first traffic signal. Turn left onto Old Stage Road (Route 732), travel two miles to stop sign at Coxendale and follow to park entrance on right, Henricus Park Road.

Details: Noel Losen, 748-1129, or Mark Battista, 706-9690



Parent and Child Paddling Explorations

Attention Moms and Dads: Bring your kids (minimum age is 8) to the Dutch Gap Conservation Area to experience paddling. Canoes and sit-on-top kayaks are available. This program will review basic paddling skills and provide a chance to paddle and explore the tidal lagoon. An adult must accompany and participate with child. Paddling time is approximately 90 minutes. Register at least one week before program.

Program takes place at Dutch Gap Conservation Area.
\$7 per person

Ghost Fleet Paddle

Paddle to the old sunken tugboat and the “skeleton” of wooden barges.

Friday, June 25, 9-11:30 a.m.

Course #9572

Friday, Aug. 20, 8-10:30 a.m.

Course #9576

Island Paddle

Visit various islands in the lagoon. What do they reveal about its history and wildlife?

Friday, July 9, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Course #9573

Friday, Aug. 6, 8:30-11 a.m.

Course #9575

Wetlands Discovery Paddle

Paddle from the peninsula, across the lagoon and into the tidal wetlands.

Friday, July 23, 8-10:30 a.m.

Course #9574

Wildlife on the James

Start in the tidal lagoon at the Dutch Gap Conservation Area, then cruise downriver to the new Brown & Williamson Conservation Area. Scan the riverbank for waders and other water birds and the bluffs for bald eagles and osprey. All trips are limited to only four participants, so enroll early. Fee includes interpretive guide, boat tour and binoculars. Minimum weight is 50 pounds. An adult must accompany children 14 years of age or younger. All programs meet at Henricus Visitor Center. Register at least one week before program. Program takes place at Dutch Gap Conservation Area.

\$8 per person

Saturday, June 12, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Course #9591

Saturday, July 17, 6-8 p.m.

Course #9592

Saturday, Aug. 21, 7-9 a.m.

Course #9593

Lunchtime Journeys

Enjoy lunch at Henricus Historical Park, then join the naturalist for an after-lunch program to explore the natural secrets of Dutch Gap Conservation Area. For children 5-12 years old, except where noted.

Register at least one week before program.

Henricus Historical Park Education Center

\$3 per child (parents free)

Swamp Man

Meet Swamp Man (a.k.a. Old Swampy) and explore the swamp. Learn the swamp song; hear how the beaver got its tail and how the turtle got its shell. You may never want to leave the swamp!

Thursday, June 24, 1-2 p.m.

Course #9577

Lagoon Boat Tour

Take a cruise to discover the tidal lagoon. Discover wildlife that lives in the lagoon and visit the “graveyard.” Children must weigh at least 50 pounds to register for this trip.

Thursday, July 15, 1-2 p.m.

Course #9578

Thursday, Aug. 26, 1-2 p.m.

Course #9584

Creatures from the Deep

What lurks at the bottom of swamps and marshes? Use nets and buckets to collect underwater critters. Next, examine some strange and fascinating creatures through a video microscope.

Thursday, July 22, 1-2 p.m.

Course #9579

Wildlife Detectives

Are you a wildlife detective? Sleuth along the boardwalk and find artifacts and other clues to guess the identity of some wetland creatures. For children 9-12 years old.

Thursday, July 29, 1-2 p.m.

Course #9580

Treasure Map

Ahoy treasure hunters. The naturalist found a treasure map! Join him in finding buried booty and other treasures of the conservation area. A treasure awaits you. For children 8-12 years old.

Thursday, Aug. 5, 1-2 p.m.

Course #9581

I Dig Owl Pellets

Whooo knows what an owl pellet is? What's inside an owl pellet? Join the naturalist and dig into owl pellets to find out who was lunch!

Thursday, Aug. 12, 1-2 p.m.

Course #9582

Cypress Grove Hike

Cram in the van for a short ride to the Cypress Grove. Next, take an enchanting walk that teeters between the river and the swamp. Find cypress knees, osprey, dragonflies, and other wonders of the Cypress Grove.

Thursday, Aug. 19, 1-2 p.m.

Course #9583

For more nature programs,
see pages 14 and 15.

For more details on these nature programs, call Mark Battista at 706-9690.

Tidewater Paddling Explorations

Join the naturalist staff to paddle and explore the natural and cultural history of the Tidewater region. All trips are suitable for all skill levels and include transportation (except for Dolphin Paddle), boats (canoes or kayaks), life vests, paddles, paddling instructions and guides. Unless noted, minimum age is 10. An adult must accompany children 10-14 years old.

Oxbow Journey

Paddle into the twilight hours of the Dutch Gap Conservation Area to explore the river oxbow. Paddle along floodplains, swamps and high bluffs. Read stories in the river cliffs, see cypress trees in the swamps and hear stories of naval warfare and the first English settlers. Paddling time is approximately three hours.

Program takes place at Dutch Gap Conservation Area.

Saturday, June 19, 5-9 p.m. \$18 Course #9567
Register by June 14.

Lighthouse and Island Tour

Start your paddling trip from a quaint fishing village in bucolic Mathews County. Next, stop at a sandy island for lunch and exploration, then paddle to New Point Comfort Lighthouse, the third oldest lighthouse on the Chesapeake Bay. Expect to view dolphins, marine birds and more! In the event of strong winds or high surf, the trip will be relocated. Paddling time is approximately three hours.

Parks Maintenance Building, 9201 Public Works Road

Saturday, July 10, 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m. \$45 Course #9568
Register by June 30.

Morning Paddle in the Tidal Lagoon

Paddle past Dutch Gap Conservation Area's "graveyard," islands and the "labyrinth." Search for great blue herons, bald eagles, osprey and other denizens of the tidal lagoon. Paddling time is approximately two hours.

Program takes place at Dutch Gap Conservation Area.

Saturday, July 24, 8-11 a.m. \$15 Course #9569
Register by July 19.

Dolphin Paddle

Head down to Sandbridge on the coast of the Atlantic Ocean to paddle with dolphins. Enjoy easy-to-use tandem sit-on-top kayaks. Observe and learn about dolphins and the marine environment. Take the chance to surf the waves on your kayak. In the event of strong winds or high surf, the trip will be relocated to Back Bay. Minimum age is 12. Paddling time is approximately three hours. Participants must provide transportation to Sandbridge.

Ocean Rentals, 577 Sandbridge Road

Saturday, Aug. 7, 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. \$25 Course #9804
Register by July 28.

Twilight Paddle

Paddle into the twilight hours to search for beavers, great blue herons and other denizens of the tidal lagoon and oxbow. Join our naturalist for an evening that will include a basic paddling orientation and plenty of opportunity to explore aquatic life. Paddling time is approximately two hours. Register at least a week before program.

Program takes place at Dutch Gap Conservation Area.

\$15 per person
Friday, Aug. 20, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Course #9570
Friday, Sept. 17, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Course #9571

Dutch Gap Conservation Area

With more than 800 acres of richly diverse land, the Dutch Gap Conservation Area offers the perfect setting for those seeking the beauty and solitude of nature.

Pocahontas Bluff, which is a short walk from the Visitor Center, offers a view of the James River.

The River Trail, which extends one and a quarter miles, offers peaceful water views during a stroll under a canopy of towering sycamore, cottonwood and river birch trees.

The four-mile Dutch Gap Trail leads hikers and bikers to a tidal wetland, meadows, a freshwater pond, swamps, and the tidal lagoon. Along this trail, visitors may spy wildlife at the observation blind, fish at floating docks, walk alongside a swamp with majestic bald cypress trees, or picnic at the peninsula.

The tidal lagoon lures anglers and paddlers. The lagoon provides excellent year-round



fishing for bass, blue catfish and black crappie. For paddlers, the lagoon's passageways meander around islands and sunken barges, offering a glimpse of the area's history and providing a welcoming habitat for wildlife.

Explore alone or enlist the help of the Conservation Area's naturalist staff, which runs year-round programs for individuals, families and organized groups. Programs include wetland and bird walks, pontoon boat and canoe/kayak tours, campfire and astronomy programs and owl prowls.



For more details on these nature programs, call Judy Brown at 745-7020.

Rockwood Nature Center

Come visit our live snake and turtle exhibits and explore the forest, pond, marsh and swamp. Listen for the banjo call of green frogs or the deep voice of a bullfrog living in the Gotwals Memorial Pond. Visit our Children's Corner and learn about the plants and animals that live in the park.

Location: Rockwood Park, 3401

Courthouse Road

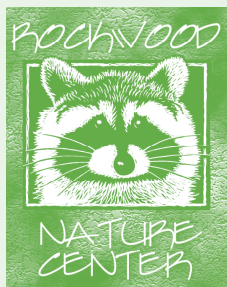
Hours: April-October: Saturday and Sunday, Noon-5 p.m.

June 21-Aug. 31: Thursday and Friday, 1-5 p.m.

Volunteers for Nature: Adults and teens needed to staff the Nature Center, monitor trails and assist with programs and special events.

Attention Educators: Come experience Rockwood Nature Center's many educational programs designed to correspond with science SOLs.

For more information, call Judy Brown at 745-7020.



Forensic Botany at Rockwood Crime Scene

As a silent witness, plants can actually provide evidence to investigators at the scene of a crime. Join the "Rockwood CSI" as we investigate the basic principles of forensic botany. The class is for participants 14 years old and older.

Saturday, June 26, 10-11:30 a.m.

\$5 Course #9823

Forensic Entomology at Rockwood Crime Scene

More than pests, insects can be living clues at a crime scene. Find out how nature and science can help to unearth clues hidden in the world of insects. Topics include identification of common crime-scene insects and estimation of the time of death. The class is for participants 14 years old and older.

Saturday, July 24, 10-11:30 a.m.

\$5 Course #9858

Poison Ivy, Where Are You?

Protect yourself and others from this annoying plant. Hike with us and see exactly where and how this plant grows. We will provide each family or individual with a laminated plant. The class is for participants 6 years old and older.

Saturday, June 19, 10-11 a.m.

\$3 Course #9842

Salamander, Where Are You Hiding?

Is a salamander slimy? Does he have teeth? Is a salamander a snake that grew legs? This program will include a short story and hike. The class is for participants 4-9 years old. An adult must accompany child. (There is no charge for an adult.)

Saturday, July 10, 10-11 a.m.

\$3 Course #9835

A New Classroom Will Be Opening Soon!

Watch for news of the opening celebration of Rockwood Nature Center's new classroom, which will be ready to provide additional space for fun nature programs! Join us as we celebrate with FREE nature programs and easy-to-make crafts.

Opening this summer.

Call Judy Brown at 745-7020 for date and details.

The Potluck Nature Walk

Come join us as we hike the park trails. Our topics will be whatever we find, and we always find something. If you have a local nature question, bring it. If you have a plant you can't identify, bring it. The class is for participants 5 years old and older.

Sunday, June 27, 2-3 p.m.

\$3 Course #9838

The Tale of the Fox

Bring your dad and celebrate Father's Day by learning about foxes. This program will include a hike in the forest and an art activity to make an original card for Dad's Day. Participation for dads is free! The class is for participants 5-11 years old.

Sunday, June 20, 2-3 p.m.

\$3 Course #9830

Chipmunks Versus Squirrels

How are they alike? How are they different? Join us as we search for them on the trails and around the nature center. Take a close look at Monk, our resident chipmunk, and make a simple craft to take home. The program is for children who are 4-9 years old. Children must be accompanied by an adult. (There is no charge for an adult.)

Saturday, Aug. 7, 10-11 a.m.

\$3 per child Course #9860

The "Ubiquitous" Snake

Snakes are everywhere. Join us as we identify the snakes of Virginia, especially those of Chesterfield County. This program will help you overcome fear and will increase your knowledge of snakes. The class is for participants 5 years old and older.

Saturday, July 17, 10-11 a.m.

\$3 Course #9843



Eeeek! A Snake!

Do you know what a venomous snake looks like? The photo above is of a copperhead snake, whose bite is dangerous and — depending on the size of the snake and the size of the victim — can cause injury requiring hospitalization. Copperheads typically can be found around rocks, woodpiles and underbrush throughout Chesterfield County. Did you know a smaller population of venomous cottonmouths inhabits Chesterfield County near the Appomattox River? It's time to be careful by being informed! If you want to learn more about copperheads, cottonmouths or other snakes, call us. We're here to help. For more information, call 745-7020 or 674-1629.

Please register at least one week in advance for all Rockwood programs at 748-1623.

Nature Programs–Rockwood

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For more details on these nature programs, call Judy Brown at 745-7020.

Wednesdays at Rockwood Nature Center

Children who are 6-12 years old will enjoy these weekly programs. Register at least week in advance.

\$3 per person

Details: Noel Losen, 748-1129

Piece Parts

Why are animals shaped the way they are? Become a mad scientist and find out what happens when the pieces are mixed together.

Wednesday, June 16, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Course #9875

Creatures from the Deep

Use a microscope and take a hands-on tour of creatures lurking at the bottom of ponds and lakes.

Wednesday, June 23, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Course #9876

Water Works

Water, water everywhere. But where does it come from, and what does it do? Explore the water cycle with us.

Wednesday, June 30, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Course #9877

Raccoon Prowl

What does a young raccoon do when it gets up in the morning? Put on your ringed tail and mask and explore its world.

Wednesday, July 7, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Course #9878

Web Spinners

Discover the sticky welcome mat for anybody who happens to pass by. Come join us in the spider's web.

Wednesday, July 14, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Course #9879

Frogs R Us

Where does a frog live, and why? Explore the world of frogs and their neighbors.

Wednesday, July 21, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Course #9880

Pond Water Soup

Yum! What a delicious soup mother nature has served us. Learn what's really in the water and how it got there.

Wednesday, July 28, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Course #9881

This Old Nest

If you were a bird, where would you build your nest? What would it be made of? Wing with us through the park to discover the best spots.

Wednesday, Aug. 4, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Course #9882

Tree-mendous Tour

What is it like to be a tree? How do they eat and drink? Find out these answers, and more!

Wednesday, Aug. 11, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Course #9883

Older Adult Programs

Discover Chesterfield – A Walking Club Be Active For Life – AARP

This walking program is designed to introduce participants to Chesterfield County parks, open spaces and greenways, while meeting new walking partners. Once a month, an organized walk will be led by Chesterfield County Parks and Recreation Department staff. The walk will take place at a different county park, open space or greenway each month. Throughout the month, as you Discover Chesterfield, you can walk on your own or pair with new walking partners. Organized walks will be scheduled on the first Tuesday of the month. Call to sign up for the club and to receive a detailed schedule.

Tuesdays, 9 a.m.

FREE

Course #7479

May 4 Harrowgate Park, 4000 Cougar Trail

June 1 Robious Landing Park, 3800 James River Road

July 6 Daniel Park at Iron Bridge, 6600 Whitepine Road

Aug. 2 Rockwood Park, 3401 Courthouse Road

Details: Judy Jones, 751-4135

Super Senior Passport Information

The Super Senior Passport program allows Chesterfield County residents 60 years old and older to take select courses **FREE** at the Chesterfield Community Technology Center. Computer program participants automatically become members of the Super Senior Passport program.

Super Senior Passport – Computer Concepts

This class, for participants 60 years old and older, covers an introduction to computers, including computer hardware, software, basic Windows commands, word processing and the World Wide Web. Participants should be prepared to research a favorite topic.

Chesterfield Technical Center, 10101 Courthouse Road

Mondays and Wednesdays, 1-3 p.m.

June 28-July 7 (no class 7/5)

FREE

Course #9660

July 12-July 19

FREE

Course #9661

July 26-Aug. 2

FREE

Course #9662

Details: Mark Pinney, 748-1992

Super Senior Passport – The Internet

This two-day class will give participants 60 years old and older an overview of the type of information available on the World Wide Web and show them how to search for topics of interest. Begin surfing with confidence.

Chesterfield Technical Center, 10101 Courthouse Road

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1-3 p.m.

June 29-July 1

FREE

Course #9663

July 6-July 8

FREE

Course #9664

July 13-July 15

FREE

Course #9665

Details: Mark Pinney, 748-1992

For more older adult programs,
see pages 7, 16 and 17.